

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982
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AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMSACUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBSSY DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH

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ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BTRA, OTRA, ETRD, SA
SUBJECT: ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DELEGATION VISIT TO U.S.

REF: JIDDA 2830 (NOTAL)

1. SHEIKH ISMAIL ABU DAWOOD, PRESIDENT OF JIDDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CALLED EMBASSY TODAY TO REPORT ON SUBJECT TRIP. HE EFFUSED ABOUT SUCCESS OF TRIP AND THANKED EMBASSY FOR PRE-TRAVEL BRIEFING. IN CONTRAST TO EARLY APPREHENSIONS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL, HE FELT THAT TRIP WAS MOST WORTHWHILE IN PRESENTING THE SAUDI SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP WITH U.S. AND THE COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST.

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2. SHEIKH ISMAIL WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED AND IMPRESSED BY MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE KREPS AND TREASURY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL WHOSE PRESENTATION RE TRADE REALTIONS WERE APPRECIATED. HE CHARACTERIZED CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES AS MOST SENSITIVE STOPS BUT WAS SURPRISINGLY DELIGHTED WITH NEW YORK. CONSIDERED WASHINGTON HIGHLIGHT OF TRIP.

3. SHEIKH ISMAIL BELIEVED SENATOR ABOUREZK'S SPEECH A BIT ROUGH IN ITS DEPARTURE FROM ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS LINE BUT APPRECIATED FORTHRIGHT SPEECH BY SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL. HE REMARKED THAT HIS OWN APPEARANCE ON THE "GOOD MORNING" TV PROGRAM WORRIED HIS SOMEWHAT AS INTERVIEWER TRIED TO DRAW HIM INTO POLITICAL SUBJECTS BUT FELT THAT IT CAME OFF WELL ENOUGH AS HE TOOK CARE TO EMPHASIZE COMMERICAL NATURE OF VISIT. HE PRAISED ALL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION BUT WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH THE BUSINESS LIKE APPROACH OF BURHAN DAJANI OF THE AMMAN CHAMBER.

4. IN RETURN FOR THE HOSPITALITY AND CONSIDERATIONS ENJOYED DURING HIS TRIP SHEIKH ISMAIL WANTS TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ALL U.S. BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA. ALTHOUGH HE ALWAYS SUPPORTED OUR TRADE MISSIONS HERE, HE STATES THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN BUSINESS FACILITATION AND HOSPITALITY FOR ANY U.S. BUSINESS GROUP VISITING THE KINGDOM.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND COMMERCE TO INFORM THE ORGANIZERS OF THE VISIT OF SHEIKH ISMAIL'S IMPRESSIONS AND FOR OUR PART THANK THEM FOR DOING SUCH GOOD JOB IN HANDLING THIS SENSITIVE VISIT ABOUT WHICH WE, TOO, HAD APPREHENSIONS.
WILEY

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